

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for managing access to a service, comprising the step of:

(A) delegating a permission to a delegatee by a delegator, wherein said

permission is represented using a digital signature;

wherein said permission comprises authority to access the service and delegate

one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegatees; and

wherein at least one delegation of permission occurs over a personal area network

while physical presence exists between the delegator and the delegatee.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more

devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more

devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(B) delegating one or more of the further permissions to said one or more

subsequent delegatees via electronic mail.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises accessing content.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises actuating a device.

7. A system for managing access to a service, comprising:

a delegation device that delegates a permission to a delegatee wherein said

permission is represented using a digital signature;

wherein said permission comprises authority to access the service and delegate

one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegatees; and

wherein at least one delegation of permission occurs over a personal area network while physical presence exists between the delegator and the delegatee.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein one or more of said further permissions to said one or more subsequent delegatees are delegated via electronic mail.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.

11. The system of claim 7 wherein said service comprises accessing content.

12. The system of claim 7 wherein said service comprises actuating a device.